

Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Morning Update
Deer Park, Texas
March 22, 2019 1200 – March 23, 2019 0400

- EPA continues to participate in Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services, and ITC.
- A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom has been placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou, Tucker Bayou, and Buffalo Bayou. The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material, but will continue to improve it during the day.
- At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch on Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to fight the fire. A shelter in place recommendation was in effect for industrial neighbors, the Battleship Texas and Monument State Park. There was no shelter in place for the city of Deer Park.
- During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 ppm were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night time. These readings were located along the ship channel, Channelview.
- Foam continues to be applied to the secondary containment and tanks to reduce emissions and reignition of hot spots. At 3:00 am, approximately 145 totes (250 gal each) of foam were remaining. Approximately 200 additional totes are in route and will be arriving throughout the day.
- ITC will again attempt to start pumping product out of tank 80-7 (pyrolysis gasoline) to an empty tank within another tank farm.
- For safety purposes, there is no remediation actions taking place on the ship channel at night, but operations continued at night in the ditch area.
- As of 12:00 am on March 23, 2019, the RP had laid approximately 8,500 feet of boom in Tucker Bayou and areas along Buffalo Bayou. Another 600 feet will be deployed early on March 23. Booming has been placed around sensitive marsh areas, the battleship, and other sensitive areas of concerns. Currently, they have about 5,000 feet of additional boom.
- EPA conducted water sampling on March 22, 2019, in two locations in the drainage ditch feeding into Tucker Bayou and up by the Battleground park area. Samples will be analyzed for Chemical Oxygen Demand, VOCs, SVOCs, and oil/grease. Sampling was suspended after the breach in containment wall due to safety concerns from the containment breach.
- EPA has received the first preliminary analytical results for the water sampling and are performing validation QA/QC presently.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found detections of acetone, butadiene, isobutylene, 1-butene, and isoprene. ASPECT found exceedances of the Texas comparison values on the afternoon of March 22, 2019.

ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC) in Deer Park, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for butadiene (1.7 ppm) and isoprene (0.02 ppm).

- The ASPECT aircraft is undergoing maintenance and is expected to be ready for operation at approximately 12:00 pm on March 23, 2019.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) from March 22, 2019 (12:00 pm) to March 23, 2019 (4:00 am). The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results found exceedances of the short-term AMCV for benzene. These exceedances of the short-term AMCV for benzene partially correspond to the ITC site and have been shared with unified command and local officials.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring from March 22, 2019 (12:00 pm) to March 23, 2019 (4:00 am) at 50 locations located in residential areas north of the ship channel as the wind was from the south/south-east. Results were reported above the detection limit at five locations for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and five locations for benzene. Benzene was detected at two of these locations above the short-term AMCVs for benzene (0.18 ppm). EPA will conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) to determine if the short-term AMCV for benzene continues to be exceeded.
- CTEH continued air monitoring and from March 21, 2019 12:30 pm to March 22, 2019 12:00 am, there were 344 VOC readings and 133 benzene readings (with 2 detections above 1.0 ppm)
- Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) activities were cancelled on March 22, 2019 due to safety concerns after the containment breach.
- EPA continues to participate in the daily press conferences held at the ICP.